

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19 and 21-26 are pending in this application.

By this Amendment, claim 22 is amended to expedite prosecution. Support for this amendment can be found in previously presented claims (see, for example, claim 1). No new matter is added.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representatives by Examiner Qin at the interview held October 23, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 22, 24 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Yamazaki et al. (U.S. 6,499,741) (Yamazaki). Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yamazaki. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Yamazaki fails to disclose a method for playing a music game with a percussion instrument, as recited by independent claim 22. As is understood following the interview, the Office Action views the shooting of the ball in order to play the pachinko game disclosed by Yamazaki is the equivalent of a percussion instrument, as recited in independent claim 22. Applicants respectfully submit that this is an improper interpretation of a percussion instrument. The shooting mechanism of Yamazaki clearly does not constitute a percussion instrument as it is known in common usage or as it would have been known to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention.

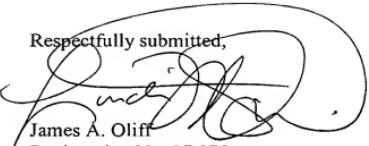
Further, as previously acknowledged by the Patent Office, Yamazaki fails to disclose providing the percussion instrument that comprises a plurality of input sensors in an input area and branched from at least one conductive section which transmits a signal as a first transmission path, the conductive section being connected to at least one bypass member which is a second transmission path so that a plurality of paths for transmitting a signal from

the input sensors are provided for the input device, as recited in independent claim 22. Thus, claim 22 is patentable over the applied reference for at least this reason.

Claims 24-26 are dependent on claim 22, and therefore are patentable over the applied reference for at least the same reasons, in addition to the additional features they recite. Thus, withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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JAO:LMS/mem

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: November 29, 2007

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